

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 /094 W
-----033675 231419Z /41

R 231100Z JUL 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6487
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 1511

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, IZ
SUBJECT: GOI GRANTS AMNESTY TO PRISONERS

1. SUMMARY: ON JULY 16, GOI ANNOUNCED RELEASE OF CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PRISONERS ON 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF JULY 17 REVOLUTION. IT APPEARS AMNESTY INCLUDED SOME POLITICAL PRISONERS, BUT EXCLUDED FREEMASONS, BAHAIS AND THOSE CONVICTED OF SABOTAGE OR ARMS TRAFFICKING IN THE NORTHERN AUTONOMOUS REGION (KURDISTAN). PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT 2835 PRISONERS WERE RELEASED ON JULY 17 AND THAT AN ADDITIONAL 4000 ARE EXPECTED TO BE FREED WITHIN ONE MONTH OUT OF TOTAL PRISON POPULATION OF 10,000. END SUMMARY.

2. REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL (RCC) DECREE OF JULY 16 GRANTED AMNESTY TO FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF PRISONERS:

A. ILL PRISONERS NOT EXPECTED TO RECOVER;

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B. THOSE WHO ARE 60 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER WHO HAVE SERVED AT LEAST HALF THEIR SENTENCE;

C. THOSE CONVICTED OF POSSESSING OR CARRYING ARMS OUTSIDE OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION;

D. IRAQIS AND FOREIGNERS CONVICTED OF ILLEGALLY ENTERING IRAQ;

E. THOSE CONVICTED OF MURDER WITH MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES ASUCH AS SELF-DEFENSE OR DEFENSE OF HONOR WHOSE SENTENCES DO NOT EXCEED 15 YEARS AND WHO HAVE SERVED AT LEAST HELF THEIR SENTENCES;

F. THOSE CONVICTED OF ORDINARY CRIMES WHOSE SENTENCES DO NOT EXCEED 10 YEARS AND WHO HAVE SERVED AT LEAST HALF THEIR SENTENCES.

THE DECREE ALSO STIPULATES THAT THOSE CONVICTED OF MURDER AND ORDINARY CRIMES WHO ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE CATEGORIES WILL HAVE THE REMAINDER OF THEIR SENTENCES REDUCED BY 50 PERCENT.

2. AMNESTY DOES NOT APPLY TO FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF PRISONERS:

A. FREEMASONS, BAHAIS AND THOSE CONVICTED OF ESPIONAGE;

B. KIDNAPPERS AND THOSE CONVICTED OF SEX CRIMES;

C. THOSE CONVICTED OF SABOTAGE AND ARMS TRAFFICKING IN THE NORTHERN AUTONOMOUS REGION;

D. THOSE SENTENCED TO DEATH.

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3. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE RCC WILL SUPERVISE THE AMNESTY AND HAS THE POWER TO AUTHORIZE THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AMNESTY PROVIDED THAT "A RADICAL CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THEIR THINKING AND BEHAVIOR TOWARD THE REVOLUTION AND ITS GOALS."

4. IN STATEMENT CARRIED IN JULY 18 EDITION OF BAGHDAD DAILY AL-THAWRA, GOI MINISTER OF INTERIOR IZZAT IBRAHIM SAID THAT AMNESTY IS THE RESULT OF "THE HUMANE AND SOCIALIST NATURE OF THE BAATH PARTY" AND REFLECTS ITS BELIEF IN THE ABILITY OF THE RELEASED PRISONERS TO REHABILITATE THEMSELVES AND "WORK TO FULFILL THE AIMS OF THE REVOLUTION." HE ALSO PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING FIGURES:

--TOTAL PRISON POPULATION IS 10,000;

--2835 PRISONERS WERE RELEASED ON JULY 17 AND AN ADDITIONAL 4,000 WILL BE RELEASED IN APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH AFTER THEIR FILES HAVE BEEN REVIEWED;

--AMNESTY INCLUDES 226 FROM TOTAL OF 317

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN IRAQ, AND 670 PRISONERS
CONVICTED OF ILLEGALLY ENTERING THE COUNTRY;

--ALL PRISONERS WILL BE GIVEN JOBS AFTER
THEIR RELEASE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE, PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA01511
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780302-0728
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780729/aaaaayky.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9544f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1912680
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI GRANTS AMNESTY TO PRISONERS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9544f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014